



NASA  
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08

# Presentation

## Emerging Contaminants Update

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*Sustaining Mission Success*

# Emerging Contaminants Update

- **Emerging Contaminants, in collaboration with the RRAC, identifies, tracks, and responds to changing environmental requirements**
- **Emerging Contaminants is a proactive effort to position NASA prior to the finalization of changing requirements, avoiding costly and often unsuccessful reactive responses late in the process (i.e. perchlorate and TCE).**

# Emerging Contaminants Update

- **Recent Emerging Contaminants efforts focused on changing requirements for specific chemicals of concern, such as risk assessments and policies that set cleanup levels for perchlorate, TCE, and 1,4-dioxane**
- **EPA plans to release its preliminary (available for public comment) regulatory determination for perchlorate by the end of September 2008**
- **EPA will provide the draft TCE risk assessment for interagency review in June 2009.**

# Emerging Contaminants Update

- **The SDWA regulatory determination for perchlorate may include the development of an MCL for drinking water, a health advisory, both an MCL and a health advisory, or no EPA action**
- **EPA's AA for Water, Ben Grumbles testified to Congress by reiterating the options, stating that the cleanup levels would also be modified, based on new scientific information**
- **Specific options under the SDWA regulatory determination have potential impacts for NASA's cleanup program**

# Emerging Contaminants Update

- **Chemicals of concern to the ECR program, such as TCE and 1,4-dioxane, will be subjected to revised EPA IRIS risk assessments in 2009, including interim guidance on TCE vapor intrusion (use of the CalEPA cancer slopes as an alternative)**
- **NASA, under the newly formalized IRIS risk assessment process, will actively participate in the interagency review opportunities for review and comment**
- **NASA has additional opportunities to participate when the Agency identifies a chemical/material to be “mission critical” (EPA’s definition)**

# Emerging Contaminants Update

- **Tracking and responding to new or changing requirements requires NASA to be proactive on an array of issues, such as BPA, nanomaterials, REACH**
- **Emerging Contaminants continues to focus chemicals of concern to NASA but has expanded to include:**
  - **Agency-wide risk management,**
  - **Greenhouse gas management and climate change**
  - **Nanomaterials,**
  - **International chemical management effort, such as REACH (EC regulation)**
  - **Environmental security**